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September 22, 2006

Dear State of Maryland Employees:

As you know, Maryland's General Election will be held Tuesday, November 7, 2006. Unfortunately, Maryland's Primary Election was plagued by error. Simply put, the citizens of Maryland deserve better. To assure that the General Election will not be similarly affected, I urge you to volunteer as election judges.

A fair, accessible, and well-managed general election is dependent upon those who administer it. Election judges who staff each polling place are an integral part of assuring fair elections. To assure sufficient staffing of the polls, please consider volunteering as election judges.

Under State law, State employees who are scheduled to work on Election Day may use up to 8 hours of administrative leave to serve as election judges. Employees who are scheduled to work on Election Day must obtain supervisor approval before volunteering.

Since the General Election is a State holiday, to encourage you to volunteer, I am authorizing all State employees who are <u>not</u> scheduled to work on Election Day and who serve as election judges to receive 8 hours of administrative leave. State employees who serve as election judges are entitled to the compensation paid to all election judges.

If you are interested in serving as an election judge, you should contact your local board of election. A listing of contacts for the local boards can be found at: http://www.elections.state.md.us/citizens/county_boards.html.

Thank you for your assistance in assuring that Maryland voters can have confidence in our general election.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.

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Governor